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09/678,907	10/04/2000	Roozbeth Atarius	040070-423	7241

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POTOMAC PATENT GROUP, PLLC
P. O. BOX 270
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22404

EXAMINER	
MEW, KEVIN D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2616	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/678,907	Applicant(s) ATARIUS ET AL.	
	Examiner Kevin Mew	Art Unit 2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2006.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 10.11.15.25.26.30-58. 62 and 66-82 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) 10,11,25,26,31-58,62 and 66-72 is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 15 30 and 73-82 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Arguments/Remarks filed on 10/19/2006 regarding claims 15, 30, 73-82 have been considered and claims 10-11, 15, 25-26, 30-58, 62, 66-82 are currently pending. Claims 1-9, 12-14, 16-24, 27-29, 59-61, 63-65 have been canceled by applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 15, 30, 73-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Easton (USP 5,764,687) in view of Rouphael et al. (USP 6,278,725), and in further view of Clark (USP 6,459,888).

Regarding claims 15, 30, Easton discloses a transceiver to perform a method for processing code division multiple access signals received (**analog transmitter and receiver for demodulating a signal in a spread spectrum multiple access communication system**, see lines 1-4, col. 2, lines 41-43, col. 8 and lines 23-26, col. 7, and element 16) through at least one multipath propagation channel (**tracks the time offset of the multipath peak**, see col. 9, lines 1-6) to produce at least one relative frequency error estimate (**frequency error**, see element 44, Fig. 3), comprising:

samples (**I and Q channel samples**) for processing (**analog transmitter and receiver containing a downconverter chain that outputs digitized I and Q channel samples at baseband and the sampling clock used to digitized the received waveform is derived from a voltage controlled local oscillator**, see lines 11-15, col. 5 and elements 16, 40);

channel estimators for correlating (**dispreading**) the complex numerical samples (**I and Q chip samples are provided to QPSK despreaders**, see elements 104a and 104b, Fig. 3) with shifts of a locally generated despreading code (**I and Q PN sequences are generated from PN sequence generator**, see Fig. 3) and producing a number of complex channel estimates (**output of on-time despreader**, see line 53, col. 9 and signals going into Pilot Filers, Fig. 3), each corresponding to a different delayed ray of the at least one multipath propagation channel (**I and Q PN sequences are generated from PN sequence generator, which are delayed from their counterpart sequences in the base station by the multipath propagation delay from the base station to the mobile unit**, see lines 24-38, col. 9 and element 106, Fig. 3);

frequency error estimators (**cross product circuits**, see element 146, Fig. 3; note that one cross product circuit is used for each finger) for computing a frequency error estimate (**frequency error**, see element 44, Fig. 3) for each ray based on successive values of a respective one of the channel estimates (**each finger makes an estimate of the frequency error using the cross product operator**, see lines 39-47, and equation 3, col. 6 and Fig. 3); and

at least one summer (**frequency error combiner**) for performing a weighted summation of the frequency error estimates to provide at least one relative frequency error estimate (**frequency error estimate from each finger 44a-c are combined and integrated in the**

frequency error combiner to generate an integrator output to adjust the clock frequency in order to compensate for the frequency error of the local oscillator, see lines 48-54, col. 6),

Easton does not explicitly disclose producing at least two combined frequency error estimates and at least two summers for performing weighted summations of groups of the frequency error estimates to provide at least two combined frequency error estimates.

However, Rouphael discloses an apparatus to perform a method to account for multipath signals at a remote station by providing outputs from a plurality of Rake fingers (elements 210, 212, 214, Fig. 3), with each of the fingers coupled to its own frequency discriminator (elements 110-1 to 110-3, Fig. 3) to produce frequency error signals Δw_1 to Δw_N (**frequency error estimates**, col. 5, lines 55-67, col. 6, lines 1-64 and Fig. 3). In addition, Rouphael discloses a plurality of adders (**at least two summers**, elements 250, 255, 260, Fig. 3) that are used to add the average frequency estimate with the frequency error outputs (**performing a weighted summations of groups of the frequency error estimates to provide at least two combined frequency error estimates**, see Δw_1, Δw_2, Δw_N, Fig. 3) of each frequency discriminator.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the CDMA transceiver apparatus and method of Easton with the teaching of Rouphael's Rake receiver such that it will employing at least two adders to add the average frequency estimate with the frequency error outputs of the frequency discriminators.

The motivation to do so is to remove the Doppler frequency offset from each Rake finger and thereby removing the causes for performance degradations induced by various frequency offsets in the system.

Rouphael also discloses frequency offsets correspond to Doppler shifts due to different base stations (col. 5, lines 65-67, col. 6, lines 1-4).

The combined system of Easton and Rouphael does not explicitly show each of the combined frequency error estimates corresponds to a respectively different one of at least two base station transmitters.

However, Clark discloses each Doppler shift corresponds to a frequency error which is associated with a different base station (col. 3, lines 57-67, col. 4, lines 1-13).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of Easton and Rouphael with the teaching of Clark in having a different frequency offset, due to a Doppler shift, correspond to a different base station such that the combined system of Easton and Rouphael will comprise each of the combined frequency error estimates corresponds to a respectively different one of at least two base station transmitters.

The motivation to do so is to provide a more accurate frequency error estimate due to additional frequency error introduced by Doppler effect and hence a corresponding frequency error correction can be made to achieve error-free demodulation of the transmitted signal.

Regarding claims 73, 75, 81, 82, Easton discloses an apparatus to perform the method for estimating a frequency error (**each finger makes an estimate of the frequency error**) between a local frequency reference of a receiver and carrier frequencies of one or more transmitters (**to adjust clock frequency of local oscillator in the analog transmitter and receiver**, see lines 52-54, col. 6) comprising:

frequency error estimators for estimating frequency errors separately for each transmitter (**cross product circuits**, see element 146, Fig. 3; note that one cross product circuit is used for each finger); and

a combiner for combining the frequency error estimates to produce at least one relative frequency error estimate (**frequency error estimate from each finger 44a-c are combined and integrated in the frequency error combiner to generate an integrator output to adjust the clock frequency in order to compensate for the frequency error of the local oscillator**, see lines 48-54, col. 6).

Easton does not explicitly disclose combiners for combining groups of the frequency error estimates to produce at least two combined frequency error estimates.

However, Rouphael discloses an apparatus to perform a method to account for multipath signals at a remote station by providing outputs from a plurality of Rake fingers (elements 210, 212, 214, Fig. 3), with each of the fingers coupled to its own frequency discriminator (elements 110-1 to 110-3, Fig. 3) to produce frequency error signals Δw_1 to Δw_N (**frequency error estimates**, col. 5, lines 55-67, col. 6, lines 1-64 and Fig. 3). In addition, Rouphael discloses a plurality of adders (**at least two summers**, elements 250, 255, 260, Fig. 3) that are used to add the average frequency estimate with the frequency error outputs (**performing a weighted summations of groups of the frequency error estimates to provide at least two combined frequency error estimates**, see Δw_1, Δw_2, Δw_N, Fig. 3) of each frequency discriminator.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the CDMA transceiver apparatus and method of Easton with the teaching of Rouphael's Rake receiver such that it will employing at least two adders to add the average frequency estimate with the frequency error outputs of the frequency discriminators.

The motivation to do so is to remove the Doppler frequency offset from each Rake finger and thereby removing the causes for performance degradations induced by various frequency offsets in the system.

Regarding claims 74 & 76, Easton discloses the apparatus of claim 73 to perform the method of claim 75, further comprising integrating the combined frequency error estimates (see lines 48-49, col. 6).

Regarding claim 77, Easton discloses the transceiver of claim 15, wherein at least one of the base station relative frequency error estimates is formed using two or more fingers of a RAKE receiver (a integrator frequency error estimate output is formed by combining frequency estimates from each finger of a RAKE receiver, see col. 6, lines 28-65).

Regarding claim 78, Easton discloses the method of claim 30, wherein at least one of the base station frequency error estimates is formed using two or more fingers of a RAKE receiver (a integrator frequency error estimate output is formed by combining frequency estimates from each finger of a RAKE receiver, see col. 6, lines 28-65).

Regarding claim 79, Easton discloses the apparatus of claim 73, wherein at least one of the transmitters frequency error estimates is formed using two or more fingers of a RAKE receiver (a integrator frequency error estimate output is formed by combining frequency estimates from each finger of a RAKE receiver, see col. 6, lines 28-65).

Regarding claim 80, Easton discloses the transceiver of claim 75, wherein at least one of the transmitter frequency error estimates is formed using two or more fingers of a RAKE receiver (a integrator frequency error estimate output is formed by combining frequency estimates from each finger of a RAKE receiver, see col. 6, lines 28-65).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15, 30, 73-82 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 10-11, 25-26, 31-40, 41-58, 62, 66-72 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

In claim 10, a transceiver comprising an error detection decoder for performing an error check on the decoded information bits, and to generate an error or no-error indication, wherein the relative frequency error estimate is only used to control the local reference oscillator when a no-error indication is generated.

In claim 25, a method for processing code division multiple access signals received through at least one multipath propagation channel to produce at least one relative frequency error estimate, comprising the steps of:

performing an error check on the decoded information bits and to generate an error or no-error indication, wherein the relative frequency error estimate is only used to control the local reference oscillator when a no-error indication is generated.

In claim 31, a transceiver for processing code division multiple access signals received through at least one multipath propagation channel to produce at least one relative frequency error estimate, comprising:

frequency error correctors for correcting frequency errors on each of the despread value streams by, for each of the despread value streams, progressively rotating the phase angle of successive despread values at a rate given by an associated frequency error integral.

In claim 41, a method for processing code division multiple access signals received through at least one multipath propagation channel to produce at least one relative frequency error estimate, comprising:

frequency error correctors for correcting frequency errors on each of the despread value streams by, for each of the despread value streams, progressively rotating the phase angle of successive despread values at a rate given by an associated frequency error integral.

In claim 62, a transceiver for processing code division multiple access signals received through at least one multipath propagation channel to produce at least one relative frequency error estimate, comprising:

wherein the combiner adds the real parts of the per ray frequency error estimates to obtain a real sum and adding the imaginary parts to produce an imaginary sum and computing the two-argument arctangent of the real and imaginary sum.

In claim 66, a method for processing code division multiple access signals received through at least one multipath propagation channel to produce at least one relative frequency error estimate, comprising the steps of:

wherein the combining step includes adding the real parts of the per-ray frequency error estimates to obtain a real sum and adding the imaginary parts to produce an imaginary sum and computing the two-argument arctangent of the real and imaginary sum.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Mew whose telephone number is 571-272-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Seema S. Rao
SEEMA S. RAO 1/18/07
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Kevin Mew KM
Work Group 2616